



Statistics
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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Unemployment Insurance Payments

In 1975, net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act amounted to \$3.15 billion, an increase of 48% from the \$2.12 billion disbursed in 1974.

Net benefit paid in December reached \$280 million, up 71% from the December 1974 total of \$164 million. The average weekly benefit at \$89.00 increased 13% from a year earlier.

The number of beneficiaries receiving unemployment insurance payments rose 14% to 703,000 in December from 615,000 in November.

Claims received by U.I.C. offices numbered 335,000, up 29% from the previous month and up 1% from December 1974.

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of *Advance Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001-p, no charge) or *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact George Fincham (613-996-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Motor Vehicle Production

Canadian production of motor vehicles reached 135,900 units in February, up 27.0% from 107,041 a year earlier.

Passenger car production increased to 95,120 units in the latest month from 77,151 and production of commercial vehicles rose to 40,780 units from 29,890 in February 1975.

For the first two months of 1976, production of motor vehicles totalled 273,683 units, an increase of 37.5% from the January-February 1975 figure of 199,071 units.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales reached \$396.1 million in January, an increase of 19.0% from \$332.8 million in January 1975.

Sales rose in 35 of the 40 departments in the latest month, the largest gains were recorded by furs (60.4%) and meals and lunches (53.5%).

All provinces reported increased sales over January 1975 with a high of 33.8% for Saskatchewan. Sales were up 25.9% in Montreal, 16.3% in Winnipeg, 10.8% in Toronto and 9.4% in Vancouver.

Inventories held in January (at selling price) were valued at \$1.47 billion, up 24.6% from a year earlier.

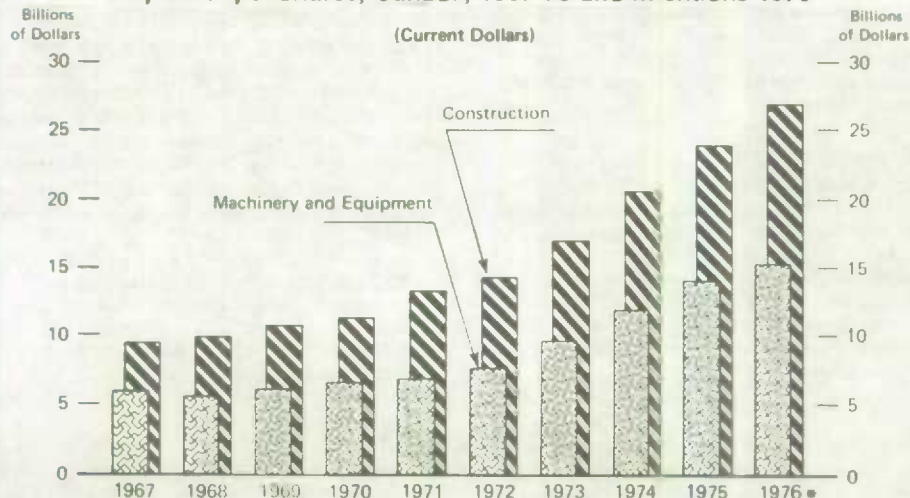
For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME			
Average Weekly Earnings (\$ million)	Dec. 209.28p	213.09p	13.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec. 7,398p	7,526p	9.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb. 9.18	9.15	3.2
Unemployed	Feb. 800,000	800,000	8.5
INVENTORIES			
Department Store (\$ million)	Dec. 1,338	1,668	3.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan. 15,541p	15,459r	3.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	Jan. 6,236	6,109	2.0
ORDERS			
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan. 7,012p	7,276r	7.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan. 9,742p	9,780r	-6.7
PRICES			
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb. 145.6	145.1	9.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.* 157.7	157.1r	5.5
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Jan.* 501.7	500.8r	3.5
CONSTRUCTION			
Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec. 830.4p	10,590	14.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Jan. 12,450	12,450	74.5
ENERGY			
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Dec.* 2,553	27,828	21.0
Electricity Generation (billion kwh.)	Jan. 27.5	27.5	3.4
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	June 265.1	1,731.8	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec. 57.5	622.0	-3.8
FOREIGN TRADE			
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.* 2,928	5,753	10.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.* 2,902	5,801	7.0
PRODUCTION			
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb.* 135.9	273.7	37.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb. 1,083	2,241	-7.0
SALES			
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 396.1	396.1	19.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan. 7,050	7,050	10.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 412.9	412.9	11.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.* 3,946	3,946	20.2
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 3,465	3,465	13.3

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary, r - revised, * - new this week.

Capital Expenditures, Canada, 1967-75 and Intentions 1976



Source: Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1976 (61-205)

* Intentions

Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1976

Capital spending in Canada by all sectors of the economy during 1976 is expected to reach \$42,189 million, an increase of 11% over the 1975 level of \$38,121 million. (These estimates are in current dollars without any adjustment for price increase developing between the two years).

Intended capital expenditures on new construction in 1976 are estimated at \$26,964 million, an increase of 12% over the 1975 total of \$24,006 million. Comparable rates of increase in preceding years were 16% in 1975, 22% in 1974 and 17% in 1973. The lower percentage gain for 1976 reflects the diverging patterns of residential and non-residential construction, as outlays for housing are expected to increase 23% during the year whereas non-residential construction is expected to rise only 8%. The comparable pattern during 1975 was 4% and 22%, respectively. Housing estimates reflect 231,000 starts in 1975 and a projected 235,000 starts in 1976. The acquisition of new machinery and equipment during the current year is expected to amount to \$15,225 million, 8% above the \$14,115 million last year.

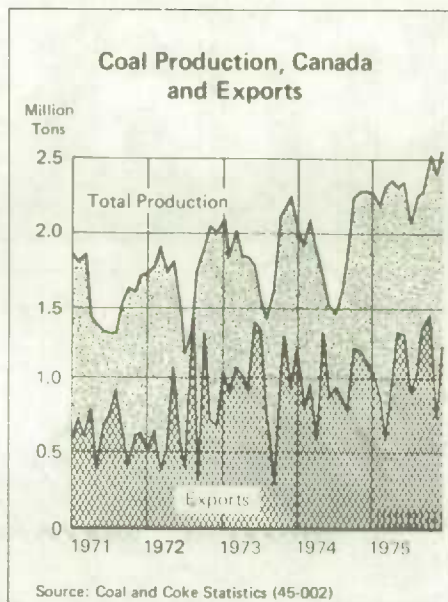
Capital spending intentions of the business group in 1976 are shown at \$26,338 million, 9% above the \$24,207 million last year, while intentions of institutions and government departments are estimated at \$6,986 million in 1976, less than 5% over the total of \$6,684 million in 1975.

The mining, petroleum and gas group registers the largest expansion for 1976, due mostly to expenditures by the metal mining group and by the petroleum and gas industry, which includes oil sands development. Utilities continue to reflect strength largely from capital programs for electric power, telephones and urban transit systems.

Intended capital outlays in manufacturing are shown as increasing 6% in 1976 as a result of expansions in capacity for chemicals (including industrial chemicals and heavy water), paper and non-metallic mineral products. Increases for these groups more than offset declines for industries such as transportation equipment and primary metals.

In the remainder of the business sector, the most notable increase shown is for the agriculture and fishing group at 14%. In the trade sector, wholesale trade is to rise 16% largely because of a special program of machinery and equipment acquisition in one area. Expenditures on retail installations are up 7%. The total for commercial services is estimated to decrease 9% from 1975, reflecting the concluding phase of expenditures on installations for the Olympic Games.

These advance estimates are preliminary and subject to revision during the current compilations of provincial detailed estimates for the publication Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1976 (61-205, \$1.05) to be released in April.



Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 11.9% in December to 2.55 million tons from 2.28 million tons in December 1974. Imports rose to 1.95 million tons from 1.09 million tons.

Industrial consumers used 2.10 million tons of coal in the latest month (up 399,308 tons from a year earlier) and 90,827 tons of coke (down 453,359 tons).

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of Coal and Coke Statistics (45-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

General Wholesale Price Index

(1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index advanced 0.2% in January to 501.7 from 500.8 (revised) in December to stand 3.5% higher than the January 1975 level of 484.7. Five of the eight major groups included in the total index increased while two decreased and one remained unchanged from the previous month.

The non-metallic minerals group index rose 1.1% in January reflecting price hikes for cement (13.4%), crushed stone (10.9%), building stone (7.6%) and plaster (4.0%). The iron products group moved up 0.8% due to an increase of 1.9% in the price of tinplate and galvanized sheets. Vegetable products increased 0.8% with increases for potatoes (30.9%) and fresh vegetables (12.9%). The wood products group index advanced 0.6% as prices rose 6.0% for spruce and 3.4% for cedar.

Lower prices for livestock (-5.1%), fresh meats (-4.0%) and cured meats (-1.9%) accounted for a decrease of 1.6% in the animal products group.

Over the 12 months from January 1975, the following percentage changes were recorded for the major group indexes:

- Non-metallic minerals, 12.4%; iron products, 12.2%; animal products, 10.1%; wood products, 8.5%; textile products, 5.0%; chemical products, 2.9%; non-ferrous metals including gold, 0.6%; and vegetable products, -11.3%.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of Prices and Price Indexes (62-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

Real Domestic Product (1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product remained at 118.4 in January, unchanged from the December level. Output of goods-producing industries rose 0.4% but service-producing industries registered an 0.2% decline.

Within the goods-producing industries, increases were recorded for mines, quarries and oil wells, manufacturing, utilities and construction.

In mining, strength was shown by metal mines, and to a lesser extent, by non-metal mines. Mineral fuels were down due to lower production of crude petroleum. In manufacturing, the major increase was in pulp and paper mills, with smaller gains for sawmills and metal fabricating industries. The growth in utilities output was mostly due to an increase in gas distribution. Increased residential and non-residential building activity accounted for the rise in construction output.

In the service-producing industries, several conflicting movements were recorded, with transportation showing a small gain and trade output declining. In transportation, railway transport advanced due to increased shipments of newsprint and mineral products. In trade, wholesale trade grew on the strength of higher sales of farm and industrial equipment and machinery; however, retail trade declined, mainly due to a decrease in sales of new motor vehicles following the re-imposition of the 7% Ontario sales tax on new motor vehicles.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (including the Index of Industrial Production), (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Radio Air-Time Sales

Sales of advertising to national advertisers on AM and FM radio stations totalled \$5.1 million in December, an increase of 18.6% from a year earlier. Agency and other commissions reduced gross national sales to \$4.2 million.

Net local air-time sales were reported at \$13.9 million in the latest month, up 10.3% from December 1974.

For further information, order the Communications Service Bulletin (56-001, \$1.40 per year), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

- Building Permits, January
- Consumer Credit, February
- Consumer Price Movements, March
- Department Store Sales by Regions, February
- Housing Starts and Completions, February
- New Motor Vehicle Sales, February
- The Labour Force, March

Travel to Work Survey

Statistics Canada has conducted a series of five Travel to Work surveys since November 1973. The results of the latest survey done in October 1975 have now been released and following are some of the highlights:

- Between November 1973 and October 1975, the number of private passenger automobiles used to transport Canadians to work increased by 391,608 (8.6%) to 4,935,697 while the Labour Force increased by 349,883 persons.
- The number of commuters using public transportation decreased 4.5%, from 1,288,266 to 1,172,583 between the same two dates.
- In October 1975 Canadians were making 15.9 million person trips per day travelling to and from work and were logging 134 million miles, using all modes of transportation.
- Gas consumed per day journeying to and from work amounted to approximately 5.8 million gallons — or at a rate of 1.5 billion gallons per year.
- Approximately 20.0% of all net sales of motor gasoline in October 1975 was consumed by private passenger automobiles travelling to and from work.
- In metropolitan areas, 77% of all commuters have public transportation available to their place of work. . . . this declines to 52% at the Canada level.
- Drivers of private passenger cars in metropolitan areas take 9 to 12 minutes less going to and coming from work than commuters using public transportation.

For further information on this survey, please contact D. Higgins (613-995-9689), Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$188.5 million of retail finance paper in January, an increase of 16.2% from a year earlier.

The total for the latest month comprised \$45.6 million for passenger cars, \$26.2 million for other consumer goods, \$72.9 million for commercial vehicles and \$43.7 million for other commercial and industrial goods.

Wholesale financing undertaken by these companies in the fourth quarter of 1975 amounted to \$1.91 billion, up 8.4% from the corresponding period in 1974.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Sales Financing* (63-013, 30¢/\$3).

HOW TO ORDER

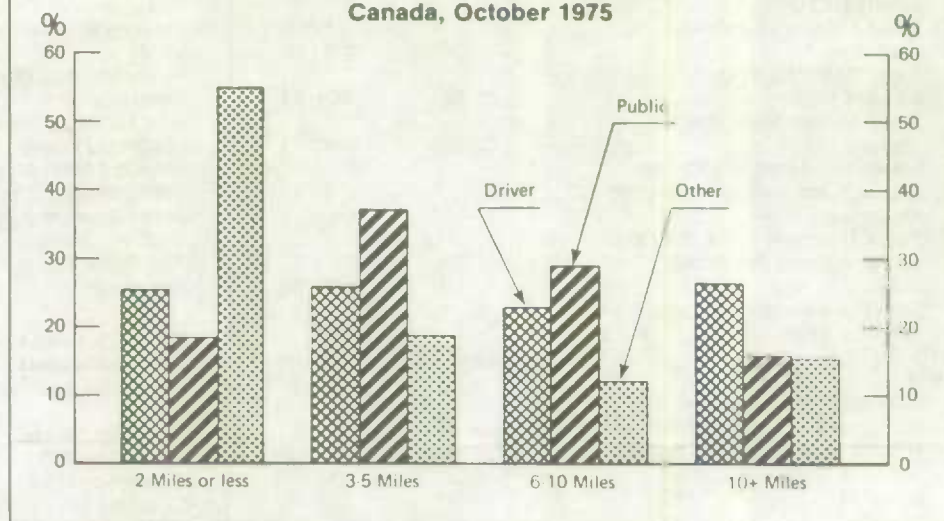
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**Primary Mode of Transportation by Distance to Work
Canada, October 1975**



Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade

Measured on a balance-of-payments basis, Canada's seasonally-adjusted merchandise exports in February rose 9.5% from the preceding month to a level of \$3.13 billion while imports rose less than 2% to \$3.09 billion. The merchandise trade balance swung to a surplus of \$47 million from the deficit of \$167 million (revised) in January.

Seasonally-adjusted exports, on a customs basis, increased 3.8% to a record level of \$3.18 billion in February. The value of shipments to the United States rose 8.1% to \$2.13 billion but exports to other countries fell 3.9% to \$1.05 billion. Within the overseas area, exports were higher in the latest month to Japan and the United Kingdom, but lower to other countries.

Some 70% of the February gain in exports was attributable to automotive and related products. Crude petroleum shipments to the U.S. declined almost \$100 million in the month.

Seasonally-adjusted imports increased 1.4% to \$3.17 billion in February. Imports from the U.S. rose 12.2% to \$2.24 billion. There were small increases in imports from member countries of the European Economic Community and from Japan but imports from other overseas countries declined substantially.

The increase in February imports was concentrated in automotive products (up some \$200 million) and in other machinery and equipment (up \$50 million). In contrast, imports of crude petroleum dropped by \$150 million from the month before.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the February 1976 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Gas Utilities

Canadian consumers purchased 141.4 billion cubic feet of natural gas in December, up 5.1% from a year earlier. Exports decreased 3.8% to 83.2 billion cubic feet.

Cumulative sales of natural gas for 1975 totalled 1.32 trillion cubic feet, an increase of 0.8% from the 1974 total of 1.31 trillion cubic feet.

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, 30¢/\$3), or contact R. Peacock (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Major Appliance Sales

Sales of home laundry equipment were higher in January, but Canadian manufacturers' domestic sales of most other major appliances were down from year-earlier levels.

Major appliance sales recorded by these manufacturers in the latest month, with percentage changes from January 1975 in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 32,161 (-3.6%); home and farm freezers, 34,858 (3.9%);
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 24,861 (-8.5%);
- Automatic washing machines, 25,442 (61.4%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 23,859 (43.5%);
- Television sets, 32,479 (-8.1%)

Manufacturers' sales in January of 29,114 Canadian-made colour television sets represented an increase of 0.3% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales dropped 46.8% to 3,365 units.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue: *Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, 15¢/\$1.50); *Stoves and Furnaces* (41-005, 30¢/\$3); *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Radio and Television Receiving Sets* (43-004, 30¢/\$3).

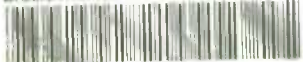
Railway Carloadings

Railways in Canada carried a total of 18.9 million tons of revenue freight in February, down 0.2% from a year earlier. Rail shipments received from U.S. connections rose 9.4% to 2.0 million tons.

On a commodity basis, significant declines were noted in loadings of: pulpwood (-61.1%); sulphur (-57.6%); trailer-on-flat-car traffic (-40.9%); newsprint paper (-40.0%); and potash (-28.1%). Increases were recorded for: coal (38.8%); copper-nickel ores and concentrates (19.0%); and iron ore (4.4%).

Cumulatively, rail freight traffic aggregated 36.9 million tons in the first two months of 1975, a decrease of 4.6% from January-February 1975. Movements of pulpwood, newsprint paper, sulphur and loaded highway transport trailers were all notably lower in the latest period.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3).



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED MARCH 25 — 31

AGRICULTUREDairy Factory Production,
February 1976

32-002 15¢/\$1.50

Farm Cash Receipts,

January 1976

21-001 30¢/\$3

Grain Milling Statistics,

January 1976

32-003 30¢/\$3

Harvested Acreage and Ton-
nages Purchased by Vegetable
Processors, 197522-003 \$1.40
for seriesIndex Numbers of Farm Prices
of Agricultural Products,
January 1976

62-003 15¢/\$1.50

Report on Livestock Surveys —
Cattle, Sheep, January
1, 1976

23-004 70¢

BUSINESS FINANCECorporations and Labour
Unions Returns Act: Report
for 1973, Part II — Labour
Unions

71-202 N/C

**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
CULTURE****SERVICE BULLETINS**Education, Science and
Culture Division — Vol. 5:

No. 1, Survey of Performing

Arts, 1974 and 1973; No. 2,

Book Publishing in Canada, 1974

81-001 N/C

EXTERNAL TRADEExports by Countries,
January-December 1975

65-003 \$2.10/\$8.40

**FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTI-
NATIONAL ENTERPRISES**Financial Flow Accounts,
Advance Release No. 1, Fourth
Quarter 1975 (Preliminary
data)

13-002-p N/C

**MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY
INDUSTRIES**Bread and Other Bakery
Products, Quarter Ended
December 31, 1975

32-015 35¢/\$1.40

Concrete Products, December
1975

44-002 15¢/\$1.50

Corrugated Boxes and Wrap-
pers, January 1976

36-004 15¢/\$1.50

Domestic and Foreign Con-
trol of Manufacturing Establish-
ments in Canada, 1969 and
1970

31-401 \$3.50

Domestic Washing Machines
and Clothes Dryers, January
1976

43-002 15¢/\$1.50

Electric Power Statistics,
January 1976

57-001 30¢/\$3

Inventories, Shipments and
Orders in Manufacturing Indus-
tries, December 1975

31-001 55¢/\$5.50

Iron Mines, 1974

26-210 35¢

Monthly Production of Soft
Drinks, February 1976

32-001 15¢/\$1.50

Oil Burners and Oil-Fired Hot
Water Heaters, January
1976

41-008 15¢/\$1.50

Primary Iron and Steel,
December 1975

41-001 40¢/\$4

Production of Canada's

Leading Minerals, January
1976

26-007 15¢/\$1.50

Pulpwood and Wood Residue

Statistics, January 1976

25-001 15¢/\$1.50

Raw Hides, Skins and Finished

Leather, January 1976

33-001 30¢/\$3

Selected Meat and Meat

Preparations, December 1975

32-020 15¢/\$1.50

Silver, Lead and Zinc Pro-

duction, January 1976

26-008 15¢/\$1.50

The Sugar Situation,

January 1976

32-013 15¢/\$1.50

SERVICE BULLETINSEnergy Statistics — Index
to Service Bulletin, March
1976

57-002 /\$4.20

Fabricated Metal Products —

Vol. 3, No. 4, Shipments of

Domestic Mobile Homes,

Quarter Ended December 31,

1975

41-009 /\$2.80

MERCHANDISING AND SERVICESConsumer Credit, January
1976

61-004 30¢/\$3

Merchandising Inventories,

December 1975

63-014 40¢/\$4

Wholesale Trade, January 1976

63-008 /\$1.50

**POPULATION ESTIMATES AND
PROJECTIONS**Estimates of Families in
Canada, 1974

91-204 35¢

Quarterly Estimates of

Population for Canada and

Provinces, January 1976

91-001 35¢/\$1.40

PRICESConstruction Price Statistics,
Monthly Bulletin, March
1976

62-007 40¢/\$4

**TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

International Air Charter

Statistics, July-September

1975

51-003 \$1.05/\$4.20

Railway Freight Traffic,

Third Quarter 1975

52-002 \$1.05/\$4.20

Shipping Statistics,

October 1975

54-002 30¢/\$3

The Motor Vehicle: Part III —

Registrations, 1974

53-219 70¢

Transcontinental and Regional

Air Carrier Operations,

November 1975

51-001 40¢/\$4

Urban Transit, January

1976

53-003 15¢/\$1.50

SERVICE BULLETINSRoad Transport — Vol. 5,
No. 2, Household Goods Moving
and Storage, 1973

53-006 /\$2.80

Water Transport — Vol. 6, No. 3,
Cargo Loaded and Unloaded in

Coastwise Shipping By Vessels

of Foreign Registries,

October-December 1975 and 1974

54-003 /\$1.40